

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Office action dated June 27, 2005, claims 1 – 19 were allowed and claims 20 – 25 were rejected. In response, Applicants have amended claim 20. Applicants hereby request reconsideration of the application in view of the amended claim and the below-provided remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1 – 19 were allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 20 – 25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tan et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,750,973, hereinafter Tan). Claim 20 is a method for optically characterizing a device under test (DUT). Claim 20 has been amended to recite:

“generating an expanded local oscillator signal, *the expanded local oscillator signal being a spatially expanded and collimated free-space optical beam*; and

combining said expanded local oscillator signal with light from a DUT for use in multiple parallel interferometric measurements.” (emphasis added to show amendment)

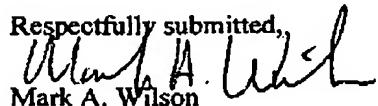
Tan discloses a test structure for simultaneously characterizing two ports of an optical component using interferometer-based optical network analysis. In Figure 2, Tan discloses a local oscillator signal (250) that is divided into multiple optical fibers (243, 245, and 272) by a coupler (226). Claim 20 was rejected as being anticipated by Tan because the coupler (226) generates an “expanded” signal as recited in claim 20 when reading claim 20 using a broad definition of the term “expand” (“to increase in size, volume, quantity, or scope of: enlarge”, Office action, page 2).

As provided above, Applicants have amended claim 20 to further specify the expanded local oscillator signal as “*being a spatially expanded and collimated free-space optical beam*.” Support for this amendment is found in Applicants’ specification at paragraph [0018], line 6 and Fig. 1 (105), Fig. 2 (205), and Fig. 5 (505) and the associated descriptions.

Applicants assert that Tan does not disclose an expanded local oscillator signal that is "a spatially expanded and collimated free-space optical beam" as recited in claim 20. Because Tan does not disclose an expanded local oscillator signal that is "a spatially expanded and collimated free-space optical beam" as recited in claim 20, claim 20 is not anticipated by Tan.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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